

Appl. No. 09/766,295
Amdt dated August 12, 2005
Reply to Office Action of July 13, 2005

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed July 13, 2005, the Examiner required restriction to one of the several groups of inventions. However, the original listing of claims submitted by the Applicants and used in the Examiner's groupings included two claims numbered "42." Accordingly, the claims have been amended to correct this defect. Each of claims from the second claim 42 up to claim 63 is shifted up one number (i.e. original claim 43 is now claim 44, original claim 44 is now claim 45, etc.). The Examiner's grouping of claims incorporating the renumbered claims is provided below (amendments shown):

- I. Claims 1-6 and 23-34 are drawn to a system providing weather information based on a consumers [sic] group and a geographical region, classified in network resource allocating area class 709 subclass 226.
- II. Claims 7-11 are drawn to a system providing weather information based on a consumers [sic] group and a different segment of time, classified in network resource access controlling area class 709 subclass 229.
- III. Claims 12-18 and 35-41~~2~~ are drawn to a system (map section) providing weather information based on map navigation and category of weather map/information, classified in operator interface area class 715 subclasses 711-713.
- IV. Claims 19-22 and 56~~7~~-63~~4~~ are drawn to a system providing weather information by using navigational architecture, classified in network resource browsing or navigating area class 715 subclasses 738-739.
- V. Claims 42~~3~~-55~~6~~ are drawn to a system providing weather information includes [sic] controlling retrieval of the weather data from database and managing a flow of data, classified in data access control area 715 subclasses 241-243.

Applicants elect Group I (Claims 1-6 and 23-34) but traverse the restriction with respect to the inclusion of claims 35-42 in Group III rather than Group IV and object to the Examiner's characterizations of the claims in Groups I and II as systems "providing weather information based on a consumers group."

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A. Claims 35 – 42 Should be In Group IV Rather than Group III

The subject matter of claim 35 and dependent claims 36 through 42 is more appropriately part of Group IV than Group III. Claim 35 requires:

35. A system for providing weather information to consumers over the Internet, the system presenting an interface comprising:

a banner section for providing some identification of the system;

a global navigation section designating a series of headings representing different categories of information available through the weather system, each of the heading being associated with a pop-up menu of sub-headings from which a consumer can select;

a main content section comprising a plurality of components and having a plurality of tabs associated with different types of content available through the system, consumers being able to navigate to a desired type of content by selecting a corresponding one of the tabs;

a footer section for use in providing non-weather information to consumers;

wherein consumers can navigate through information available through the system by selecting any one of the headings, sub-headings, and tabs.

Claims 35-42 thus relate to a system for providing weather information to consumers over the Internet, with an interface comprising a banner section, a global navigation section, a main content section, and a footer section, in which consumers can navigate through information available through the system by selecting headings, sub-headings, and tabs. Accordingly, these claims are more appropriately considered a part of Group IV relating to a system providing weather information by using navigational architecture, rather than a part of Group III relating to a system providing weather information based on map navigation and category of weather map/information.

B. Claims 1-6, 23 -34, and 7-11 Should Not be Characterized as “providing weather information based on a consumers group.”

The Examiner has characterized the claims 1-6, 23-34, and 7-11 as drawn to a system “providing weather information based on a consumers group...” However, claims 1-6, 23-34, and 7-11 do not use the term “consumers group” nor are not limited to a system “providing weather information based on a consumers group...” The independent claims of

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claims 1-6, 23-34, and 7-11 are claims 1, 7, 23 and 28, which read:

1. A weather system for use in providing weather information to consumers over the Internet and having a tool for use by consumers in interacting with the weather system, the tool comprising:
 - a first component for allowing a consumer to input a desired request and specify what the consumer seeks from the weather system, with the what being selected from a group comprising obtaining weather information and obtaining planning information;
 - a second component for allowing consumers to specify where the desired request should be directed, with the where allowing the consumer to specify a geographical region;
 - wherein the first and second components of the tool allow the consumer to tailor the desired request so that the consumer receives weather information associated with the geographical region or to tailor the desired request so that the consumer receives planning information associated with the geographical region.
7. A weather system for use in providing weather information to consumers over the Internet and having a temporal navigator tool for use by consumers in interacting with the weather system, the tool comprising:
 - a plurality of first elements for being displayed to consumers, each of the first elements for displaying weather information during a different segment of time within a longer period of time;
 - a set of the plurality of first elements being combined and presented to the consumer as a group; and
 - a plurality of second elements with each of the second elements associated with a respective one of the first elements and for displaying additional information beyond the weather information available through the first element, the additional information displayed through the second elements is for the same segment of time as weather information available through the corresponding first elements;
 - wherein the consumer obtains the additional information contained in a desired second element upon selecting the associated first element.
23. A weather system for use in providing weather information to consumers over the Internet, comprising:
 - weather data for a plurality of geographical regions;

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planning information for the geographical regions, the planning information containing data on at least one activity for multiple geographical regions;

mixed weather-planning data associated with the data on each activity for each of the multiple regions, the mixed weather-planning data providing a rating of each activity for each geographical based on the weather data for that geographical region; and

the system providing the mixed weather-planning data to consumers in conjunction with the planning information;

wherein the rating can be used by consumers in evaluating the activities at the multiple geographical regions and also in ranking the activities between the geographical regions based on the weather.

28. A method of providing weather data and planning information to a consumer over the Internet, comprising:

obtaining weather data for a plurality of geographical regions;

obtaining planning information for the geographical regions, the planning information containing data on at least one activity for multiple geographical regions;

receiving a request from the consumer over the Internet, the request specifying an activity and a certain geographical region;

obtaining mixed weather-planning data associated with the activity and the certain geographical region, the mixed weather-planning data rating each activity for each geographical based on the weather data for that geographical region;

providing planning information for the activity to the consumer; and

providing the mixed weather-planning data to the consumer through the Internet;

wherein the rating can be used by consumers in evaluating the activity at the certain geographical region based on the weather.

These claims are not limited to a system "providing weather information based on a consumers group..." Applicants respectfully request that the characterization of Groups I and II be amended as follows:

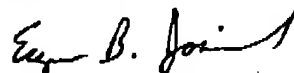
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- I. Claims 1-6 and 23-34 are drawn to a system providing weather and planning information based on a consumers group and a geographical region, classified in network resource allocating area class 709 subclass 226.
- II. Claims 7-11 are drawn to a system providing weather information for different segments of time based on a consumers [sic] group and a different segment of time, classified in network resource access controlling area class 709 subclass 229.

CONCLUSION

If there are any issues that can be resolved via a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact E.J. Joswick at 404.815.6626.

Respectfully submitted,



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